

Journalism Terminology

✓ Be able to define the following terms and apply them to print, broadcast, and web journalism.

1. angle - The approach or focus of a story.
2. assignment - A job given to a journalist by an editor.
3. attribution - to mention the original source of material (usually pertaining to a quote from a copyrighted source)
4. beat - The area or subject that a reporter regularly covers.
5. bias - Where the article shows favoritism or disapproval toward a subject in an article
6. blog - An online commentary or diary often written by individuals about hobbies or areas of specialist interest.
7. blogger - A person who writes a blog.
8. blurb - Brief introduction to the writer, usually following the headline.
9. break a story (breaking news) - When a story is first published or aired.
10. broadcast - communicating using radio and/or TV.
11. byline - A journalist's name at the beginning of a story.
12. caption - Text printed below a picture used to describe it and who took it. Sometimes called a cutline.
13. citation - To mention the source of original material or quotes.
14. column - A regular feature often on a specific topic, written by the same person who is known as a **columnist**.
15. copy - Main text of a story.
16. correspondent (or on-the-scene reporter) is a journalist or commentator who contributes reports to a newspaper, radio, or television news from a remote, often distant, location. A foreign correspondent is in a foreign country.
17. cover story - Leading story used on front cover.
18. credibility - A good reporter will consider the credibility, or believability, of any source of information.

19. credit a source - A reporter must always indicate where the information in the story came from. If the source wants to remain anonymous, the reporter should credit the source as in the following example: *"The President is involved in secret meetings with France," said a source close to the White House who spoke on condition of anonymity.*
20. crosshead - A few words used to break up large amounts of text, normally taken from the main text. Typically used in interviews.
21. dateline - The place-names at the beginning of a story that tell the reader where the story occurred. A dateline includes the name of a city or town, and sometimes the country. Before high-speed transmission of data, it also included the date, which is why it is called a "dateline."
22. deadline - The time at which an editor requests a journalists to finish an assignment.
23. defamation - Information that is written by one person which damages another person reputation.
24. edit - the process of reviewing a news story, revising the writing and checking it for mistakes before it is published or broadcast.
25. editor - Someone who prepares material for print or broadcast.
26. editorial - an opinion column written by the editor of a newspaper.
27. editorialize - To write in an opinionated way.
28. endnote - Text written at the end of an article stating the authors credentials.
29. feature - A longer, more in-depth article.
30. follow-up - An update on a previous story.
31. freelancer - Someone that works alone, usually on a contract-to-contract basis.
32. hard copy - When the article is printed out on paper.
33. headline - The main title of the article.
34. hearsay - When someone relates a story without evidence to back it up.
35. journalist - Someone who writes, researches and reports news, or works on the production of a publication. Sometimes shortened to journo, hack or scribe.
36. kill - To cancel or delete a story.
37. layout -(noun) How the page is designed and formatted.
38. lead (also: lede) - the opening sentence or two of an article that contains who, what, where, when, why/how.
39. leading questions - A question that contains the predicted answer within the question.

40. libel - A case for defamation. Defendant would need to show claims were true, fair comment or an accurate record of parliamentary or court proceedings.
41. masthead - Main title section and name at the front of a publication.
42. mug shot - Police photograph of someone who has been booked on a charge.
43. obituary (obit) - a listing of someone who has recently died. Usually contains the person's cause of death, background, surviving family members, and services.
44. off the record - Comments made that are not intended for publication or to be aired.
45. on the record - Information given by a source that can be used in an article.
46. op-ed (opinion editorial) - A feature, usually by a prominent journalist, presenting an opinionated story.
47. photojournalist - a photographer who covers a news story.
48. political cartoon/editorial cartoon - a cartoon that expresses a bias about a current issue in the news.
49. puff piece - A news story that presents its subject in a favorable light, ignoring any controversial issues.
50. reporter - Someone who writes and researches news stories.
51. retraction - A withdrawal of a previously-published story or something that was presented as a fact, but which is either untrue or not proven.
52. rookie reporter (cub reporter) - A novice reporter.
53. run - To print or air a story.
54. scoop - An exclusive or first-published story.
55. source - An individual who provides information for a story.
56. splash - Front page story.
57. syndication - A column that is printed in a large number of newspapers.
58. tabloid - A "news"paper that prints sensational material that usually is exaggerated or untrue.
59. tip - A lead of piece of new information about a new story.
60. wire service - Stories or photographs sent electrically to your desktop.
61. wrap-up questions - Final questions that help clarify information a subject has given during an interview.